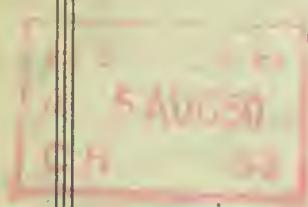


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URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Annual Report OF THE Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE YEAR ENDING

31st DECEMBER, 1949.

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Ashfield House,
Aspull,
Wigan.

To the Chairman and Members of the
ASPULL URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my Annual Report for the year
ending December 31st, 1949.

I remain,
Your obedient servant,
R. A. COOKE,
Medical Officer of Health.

URBAN DISTRICT OF ASPULL

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR 1949.

VITAL STATISTICS *

Civilian population—Registrar-General's estimate, mid-1949: 6,524.

Live Births—

	Total	M.	F.
Legitimate	140	69	71
Illegitimate	1	—	1
Total	141	69	72

Birth-rate per 1,000 estimated civilian population mid-1949: 21.6

Stillbirths

3 — 3

Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births: 21.

Deaths

97 52 45

Death rates per 1,000 estimated civilian population mid-1949:

Crude: 14.9; Adjusted: 17.1.

Death Rate per 1,000 Total
(Live and Still) births

Deaths from puerperal causes

Puerperal and post-abortive sepsis	1	...	6.94
Other maternal causes	1	...	6.94
Total maternal mortality	2	...	13.89

Death-rate of infants under one year of age:—

All infants per 1,000 live births	35
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	36
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births ...	Nil
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	1
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	13
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	0
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	0

* See note on page 1 of Summary Form forwarded to you
in May last.

1.—STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area in acres: 1,906.

Population—Census, 1931: 7,193.

Registrar-General's estimate of population, mid-1949: 6,524.

Number of inhabited houses (Census, 1931): 1,636.

End of 1949 according to rate books: 1,894.

Rateable value: £19,470.

Sum represented by a penny rate: £72.

Social conditions, including the chief industries carried on in the area—

The inhabitants are chiefly manual working class.

Industries: One cotton mill, one mechanical bakery, one small engineering works and one small carpet factory.

VITAL STATISTICS.

Particulars of any unusual or excessive mortality during the year which has received or required comment: None.

Any causes of sickness or invalidity which have been specially noteworthy in the area during the year: None.

Any conditions of occupation or environment which appear to have had a prejudicial effect on health: None.

2.—GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

Public Health Officers of the Local Authority.

Medical Officer of Health: R. A. COOKE, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

Qualifications and special diplomas: None.

Is he a whole or part-time officer of the local authority?: Part.

Any other public appointments held by him?: None.

Is he in private practice?: Yes.

Sanitary Inspector—

Thomas Spencer, A.R.San.I., M.S.I.A. Whole-time. Other appointments: Food Inspector, Rodent Officer, Cleansing Officer.

Other Public Health Officers: None.

Any local legislation (including bye-laws) in force in the district: Building Bye-laws made under the Public Health Act, 1936. Date 18th August, 1939.

Number of registered Nursing homes in the district at 31st March, 1949, for—

- (a) Medical, Surgical and Maternity: None.
- (b) Medical and Surgical only: None.
- (c) Maternity only: None.

There are no Nursing Homes in the district.

National Assistance Act, 1948—Section 47—

No. of applications made during the year under sub-section 3: None.

No. of orders made: None.

3.—SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water Supply—

Authority from which supply is obtained: Water is purchased in bulk from Bolton Corporation and Wigan R.D.C. and distributed by Aspull U.D.C. to premises.

Source of supply: Upland surface and deep wells.

Particulars of any new sources of public supply acquired during the year: None.

Supplies to houses from public mains: Number of Dwelling houses 1,894; Population 6,500.

Has the water supply of the area and of its several parts been satisfactory during the year? (a) In quality: Slight contamination in North of district during September. Generally very satisfactory. (b) In quantity: Yes.

Bacteriological examinations: Six. Results unsatisfactory during September due to a faulty chlorinator at Blackrod.

Chemical analyses: Nil.

Action taken in respect of any form of contaminatioin: Blackrod Water Engineer informed later samples proved satisfactory.

Any liability to plumbo-solvent action?: None.

Drainage and Sewerage—

All sewage is discharged into Wigan C.B. and Hindley U.D.C. sewers except for seven premises which have private septic tanks.

Areas or townships without proper drainage system: None.

Rivers and Streams—

Sources and nature of any pollution: None.

Closet Accommodation at end of 1949—

No. of privvy middens: 1.
No. of closets attached to these middens: 2.
No. of pail closets: 22.
No. of dry ashpits (excluding middens): None.
No. of movable ashbins: 1,962.
No. of trough closets: None.
No. of waste water closets: None.
No. of fresh water closets: 1,826.
No. of houses on water carriage system: 1,823
No. of pail closets converted to fresh w.c.'s: 1.

Public Cleansing—

Collection—One 7 cubic yard refuse collecting vehicle.
Disposal—Tip on moorland.

Sanitary Inspections during 1949—

No. of premises visited: 182.
Defects or nuisances: 160.
Defects or nuisances: No. discovered 160; No. abated 152.
No. of notices served: Informal, 133; Statutory, 56.
Legal proceedings: None.

Shops and Offices—

Particulars of any action taken under provision of:

- (a) Shops Act, 1934, relating to ventilation and temperature of shops and to sanitary conveniences: None.
- (b) Public Health Act, 1936, relating to conditions in offices: None.

Camping Sites (other than Military): None.

Smoke Abatement—

Any special action taken with regard to smoke abatement:
None.
No. of factory and works chimneys in the district: 5.
No. of observations taken during year: None.
No. of legal proceedings: None.
Any special action taken with regard to burning spoil banks,
etc.: None.
Particulars of any co-operative action with industry: None.

Swimming Baths and Pools—

Public swimming baths or pools: None.

Disinfestation—

No. of houses found to be infested: (a) Council houses: None.
(b) Other houses: 4.

No. of houses disinfested: (a) Council houses: None. (b) Other houses: 4.

Methods employed for disinfestation of houses: 5% D.D.T. Spray.

Name of fumigant and insecticide used, and efficiency thereof: "Bed Bug Spray." Results satisfactory.

Methods employed for ensuring disinfestation of belongings of tenants before removal to Council houses: "Cimex" fumigation in vans.

Is work of disinfestation carried out by local authority? By a Contractor.

Measures taken by way of supervision or education of tenants to prevent infestation or re-infestation after cleansing: Houses periodically inspected by Sanitary Inspector.

Schools—

Total No. of schools in the district: 7.

Sanitary condition—

(a) No. of schools with unsatisfactory yard surfaces: 4.

(b) Sanitary accommodation—No. of schools with:

- (i) Fresh water closets: 7.
- (ii) Waste water closets: None.
- (iii) Trough closets: None.
- (iv) Pail closets: None.
- (v) Privy closets: None.

(c) Refuse disposal—No. of schools with:

- (i) Dust bins: 7.
- (ii) Dry ash pits: None.

(d) Water supply—No. of schools supplied from:

- (i) Public mains: 7.
- (ii) Private supplies: None.

(e) No. of schools where washing and drinking facilities are considered unsatisfactory: None.

(f) Drainage—No. of schools with drainage to:

- (i) Public sewers: 7.
- (ii) Private treatment works: None.

Offensive Trades—None.

Factories Act. 1937—

Observations on the administration of Parts I and VIII of the Act during 1949: Factories periodically inspected. Sanitary arrangements found satisfactory.

Common Lodging-houses—

No. on register: None.

Houses let in lodgings—

No. on register: None.

Tents, Vans, Sheds, etc.—

Action taken: None.

Underground Sleeping Rooms—

Any need for regulations?: None.

Canal Boats—

No. inspected: None.

Rag Flock Acts, 1911 and 1928—

No. of premises in district on which rag flock is manufactured, used or sold: None.

Notable sanitary improvements during 1949—

One pail closet converted into a fresh water closet.

Chief sanitary requirements of the district—

Plenty of new houses are required.

4.—HOUSING.

(a) STATISTICS:

No. of new houses erected during the year—

- (i) By the local authority: Traditional permanent houses, 41.
- (ii) By other local authorities: Traditional permanent houses, None.
- (iii) By other bodies or persons: Traditional permanent houses. None.

1. *Inspection of dwelling-houses during the year—*

- (1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts: 182.
(b) Number of inspection made for the purpose: 471.
- (2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932: 2.
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose: 6.
- (3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation: 2.
- (4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects fit for human habitation: 84.

2. *Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notice—*

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the local authority or their officers: 86.

3. *Action under statutory powers during the year—*

- (a) Proceedings under sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936:
 - (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs: None.
 - (2) Number of dwelling-houses which, after service of formal notices, were rendered fit: None.
 - (a) By owners: None.
 - (b) By local authority in default of owners: None.
- (b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts:
 - (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied: 133.
 - (2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:
 - (a) By owners: 56.
 - (b) By local authority in default of owners: None.

- (c) Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936:
 - (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made: None.
 - (2) Number of houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders: None.
- (d) Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936:
 - (1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made: None.
 - (2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit: None.

4. *Housing Act, 1936.—Part IV.—Overcrowding—*

- (a) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year: None.
- (b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year: 4.
- (c) (i) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year: 4.
 - (ii) Number of persons concerned in such cases: 25.

(b) **HOUSING CONDITIONS.**

- 1. General observations as to housing conditions, including the standard of houses, the prevalent types, age and approximate numbers and general soundness of the several types—any information as to prevailing forms of defects and of prevailing bad conditions resulting from overcrowding: The majority of dwellings are cottages with an average age of 50 years. The prevailing forms of defects are dampness and decay.
Approximate number of (a) back-to-back houses: 9; (b) back-to-earth houses: None.

2. Sufficiency of supply of houses—

- (a) Give some indication of extent of shortage, stating approximate number and type of houses required:
Number of housing application: 300.
Two and three bedroom types are required.
- (b) Particulars of any housing scheme—
 - (i) in hand at end of year: 18 houses in course of erection by direct labour.
 - (ii) contemplated: 36 houses for 1950.

- (c) Information as to any important changes in population during the period under review or anticipated in the future: No important changes during 1949.
- (d) Any special difficulties in the way of providing suitable sites for new houses: None.

3. Overcrowding—

- (a) Number of cases of overcrowding in houses owned by the local authority which have been relieved during 1949: None.
- (b) Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the local authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding: None.
- (c) Any other particulars with respect to overcrowding, e.g., causes: None.

4. Fitness of Houses—

- (a) Difficulties found in action under the Public Health Acts or under the Housing Acts: None.
- (b) Number of houses which have not an adequate internal water supply: None.
- (c) Number of houses which have no separate water closet or other adequate sanitary accommodation: None.

5.—INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

1. Milk Supply. Action taken with regard to—

The administration of the Milk and Dairies Acts, Orders and Regulations (up to 30th September, 1949): All cowsheds and dairies were regularly inspected.

The Milk (Special Designations) Regulations, 1936 to 1948, and, from 1st October, 1949, the Milk (Special Designations) (Raw Milk) Regulations, 1949—

Number of dealers' licences (including supplementary licences) issued by the local authority during 1949 in respect of—
"Tuberculin Tested" milk:

(i) Bottling: None. (ii) Distribution: 1.

"Accredited" milk:

(i) Bottling: None (ii) Distribution: None.

Number of licences issued in respect of "Pasteurised" milk:
Pasteurising plants: None. Retail distributors: 1.

Any refusal or revocation of registration of retailers or of licences for graded milk, with reasons for the refusal or revocation:
None.

During the period 1st January to 30th September, 1949, did any owner undertake (voluntarily) structural alterations or improvements to farm buildings, e.g., re-modelling of cowsheds?:
None.

Farms—

Number of dairy farms at 30th September, 1949: 15.

Number of cowkeepers (including the dairy farms) at 30th September, 1949: 19.

Number of inspections up to 30th September, 1949: 30.

Number of inspections after 30th September, 1949: None.

Number of dairymen or milk purveyors (other than cowkeepers) at 31st December, 1949: 7.

Action taken by local authority as to—

(i) Tuberculous milk—

Number of samples submitted for biological test: 8.

Positive: 1. Negative: 7.

(ii) Bacteriological examinations—

Standard adopted: Methylene Blue Test.

Number of samples: 8. Number satisfactory: 5.

Number unsatisfactory: 3.

(iii) Sediment Tests—

Number of samples: None. Number satisfactory: None.

Number unsatisfactory: None.

2. Meat and other foods—

(a) Action taken with regard to meat and other foods, including inspection of meat, slaughterhouses, shops, stalls and vehicles, and places where food is prepared, with particular reference to restaurant and hotel kitchens and food factories: Regular inspections were carried out and the standard continues to improve.

Number of legal proceedings and result: None.

Action taken with regard to—

(i) Ante-mortem inspection of animals: None.

(ii) Post-mortem inspection of animals: 9 pigs were inspected.

Carcases Inspected and Condemned—

Number of pigs inspected: 9.

All diseases except Tuberculosis—

Whole carcasses condemned: None.

Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned: 1.

Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis: 11.1%.

Tuberculosis only—

Whole carcasses condemned: None.

Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned: 2.

Percentage of number inspected affected with Tuberculosis: 22.2.

(b) Foodpoisoning (including suspected cases)— None.

Details of any outbreaks of food poisoning: None.

3. Clean Food Campaigns—

Any action taken by the Council during the year (including brief notes on action during the year reported in reply to the Ministry of Food Circular M.F. 12/49, dated 10th August, 1949): None.

4. (a) Action taken under the Lancashire County Council (Rivers Board and General Powers) Act, 1938, sections 115 and 116 or other relevant legislation: None.

(b) Action taken under the Ice-Cream (Heat Treatment, etc.) Regulations, 1947-8: Regular inspections of all premises used for the sale of ice cream were carried out.

6. PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Prevalence of notifiable diseases during the year 1949: 33 cases of measles were reported. There was one death.

State whether the following diseases were compulsory notifiable in your district during 1949, and, if so, state for what period—

Diarrhoea (under 2 years): No.

Chicken-pox: No.

Any others: No.

Observations: None.

Disinfection after infectious diseases—

Number of houses disinfested during 1949: 13.

Method (state disinfectant used): "Sanitas Formigator."

Apparatus used for disinfecting clothing, bedding, etc. (steam or otherwise): "Sanitas Formigator."

URBAN DISTRICT OF ASPULL.

CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES (other than Tuberculosis) NOTIFIED DURING THE YEAR 1949.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.	TOTAL CASES NOTIFIED, AGE PERIODS—YEARS,						Hospital Deaths Total in cases removed to persons hospital belong- ing from the district to district					
	Total Cases at all ages.	Under 1	1	3	5	10	15	25	45 and over.	age unknown.	Total Deaths.	
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	11	—	4	4	3	—	—	—	1
Measles (excluding rubella)	33	5	13	13	2	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Whooping Cough	...	...	21	1	9	3	8	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Pneumonia (primary and influenzal)	...	...	16	4	4	2	1	—	1	1	7	—
Puerperal pyrexia	...	...	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	1
Dysentery	...	...	8	—	1	2	1	1	1	—	1	—
Erysipelas	...	...	5	—	—	—	—	1	1	2	1	—
Totals	...	95	10	27	24	16	4	2	4	3	5	—
										9	2	1

TUBERCULOSIS.

New cases and Mortality during 1949—

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Years								
0—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1—	—	—	—	—	—	—
2—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5—	—	—	2	1	—	—
10—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15—	—	1	—	—	—	—
20—	—	1	—	—	—	—
25—	—	1	—	1	—	—
35—	1	—	—	—	—	—
45—	—	1	—	—	—	—
55—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65—	—	—	—	—	—	—
75 and upwards	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals		1	4	2	2	2	1	1
		5	—	4	—	3	—	1

What is the ratio of non-notified tuberculosis deaths to total tuberculosis deaths?: All deaths previously notified.

Is there any evidence of excessive incidence of, or mortality from, tuberculosis in any particular occupation in the district?: No.

PUBLIC HEALTH (PREVENTION OF TUBERCULOSIS) REGULATIONS, 1925.

Any action taken under these Regulations relating to tuberculosis employees in the milk trade: None.

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936.

Any action taken under section 172, Public Health Act, 1936:
None.

ASPULL URBAN DISTRICT

Population: 6,542

Comparability factor: 1.15

Live Births:—

	M.	F.
Total	69	72
Legitimate	69	71
Illegitimate	—	1

Still Births:—

Total	—	3
Legitimate	—	3
Illegitimate	—	—

Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age:—

Total	4	1
Legitimate	4	1
Illegitimate	—	—

DEATHS IN ASPULL URBAN DISTRICT

	M.	F.
Tuberculosis of respiratory system	2	1
Other forms of Tuberculosis	1	—
Influenza	—	1
Measles	—	1
Cancer of buc. cav. & oesoph; (M) uterus (F)	2	1
Cancer of stomach and duodenum	3	—
Cancer of all other sites	2	2
Cancer of breast	—	3
Diabetes	—	1
Intra-cranial vascular lesions	3	3
Heart diseases	18	18
Other disorders of circ. system	1	—
Bronchitis	1	1
Pneumonia	2	5
Ulcer of stomach or duodenum	1	—
Nephritis	1	—
Puer. & post-abort. sepsis	—	1
Other maternal causes	—	1
Premature birth	1	—
Congenital malformation, birth injuries, infant, dis.	1	—
Suicide	—	1
Road traffic accidents	1	—
Other violent causes	3	1
All other causes	9	4
All causes	52	45

ASPULL URBAN DISTRICT.

Population—
 For death-rates } 6,524.
 For birth-rate

Year—	Per 1,000 of estimated population.			Maternal mortality rate.		Rate of deaths under one year per 1,000 live births			
	Live birth-rate	Crude death-rate	Death-rate from tuberculosis of respiratory system	Per 1,000 live births	Per 1,000 total (live and still) births				
Mean of 5 years, 1944-1948	19.3	12.6	1.73	6.62	6.40	55	
1948	18.5	10.5	0.46	2.00	8.33	8.06	33
1949	21.6	* 14.9	0.46	1.99	14.18	13.89	35
Increase or decrease in 1948 on 5 years' average, 1944-1948									
Previous year	+ 2.3	+ 2.3	+ 0.01	+ 0.26	+ 7.56	+ 7.49	-20
			+ 3.1	+ 4.4	Nil	-0.01	+ 5.85	+ 5.83	+ 2

* 1949 adjusted death-rate (comparability factor, 1.15) = 17.1 per 1,000.

Birth-rates, Civilian Death-rates, Analysis of Mortality, Maternal Mortality and Case-rates for Certain Infectious Diseases in the Year 1949. Provisional figures based on Weekly and Quarterly Returns.

	England and Wales.	126 C.Bs. and Great Towns including London.	148 Smaller Towns Resident Pop. 25,000-50,000 1931 Census.	London Adm. County.
Births—				
Live Births	16.7 (a)	18.5
Still Births	0.39 (a)	0.37
Deaths—				
All Causes	11.7 (a)	12.2
Typhoid and Paratyphoid	0.00	0.00
Whooping Cough	0.01	0.01
Diphtheria	0.00	0.00
Tuberculosis	0.45	0.52
Influenza	0.15	0.14
Smallpox	0.00	—
Acute Poliomyelitis & Polioencephalitis	0.01	0.02
Pneumonia	0.51	0.56
Notifications (Corrected)—				
Typhoid fever	0.01	0.01
Paratyphoid fever	0.01	0.01
Cerebro-spinal fever	0.02	0.02
Scarlet fever	1.63	1.83
Whooping cough	2.39	2.44
Diphtheria	0.04	0.05
Erysipelas	0.19	0.20
Smallpox	0.00	0.00
Measles	8.95	9.18
Pneumonia	0.80	0.91
Acute Poliomyelitis	0.13	0.13
Acute Polioencephalitis	0.01	0.02
Food Poisoning	0.14	0.14

	England and Wales.	126 C.Bs. and Great Towns including London.	148 Smaller Towns Resident Pop. 25,000-50,000 1931 Census.	London Adm. County.
Deaths—				
All causes under 1 year of age	32 (b)	37	30	29
Enteritis and Diarrhoea under 2 years of age	...	3.0	3.8	2.4
Notification (Corrected)—				
Puerperal fever and pyrexia	...	...	6.31	8.14
Maternal Mortality in England and Wales.				
Rates per 1,000 Live Births—				
32 (b)	37	30	29	
Rates per 1,000 Total (Live and Still) Births—				
		6.31	8.14	6.82
Rates per 1,000 Total (Live and Still) Births				
				Rates per million women aged 15-44
140 Abortion with Sepsis	...	...	0.11	8
141 Abortion without Sepsis	...	...	0.05	4
147 Puerperal Infections	...	...	0.11	
142-146, 148-150 Other Maternal Causes	...	...	0.71	

(a) Rates per 1,000 total population. (b) Per 1,000 related live births.

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 and 1948.

INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors).

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written notices	Occupiers prosecuted
(i)				
Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	2	4	Nil	Nil
(ii)				
Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	7	10	Nil	Nil
(iii)				
Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers premises)	1	2	Nil	Nil
TOTAL ...	10	16	Nil	Nil

Cases in which defects were found—

	Found	Remedied
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	2	2
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)—		
Unsuitable or defective	—	—
TOTAL	2	2

